

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-referenced application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 13-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. No amendments are made herein.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. The Examiner asserts that the feature "linear" added to Claim 1 in Applicant's last response is not disclosed in the specification. Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Figure 3 of the instant specification where the sloped intermediate area of the probe card substrate 31 linking the centrally located plane 34 with the second or perimeter plane 32 is clearly shown to be linear. Therefore, Applicant submits that in view of the fact that this feature of Claim 1 is supported by the disclosure, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kasukabe, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,305,230). Claim 1, as previously amended, includes the feature of a linear sloped intermediate area. Kasukabe has a flexible multilayer film 44 which is pressed into position and necessarily is curved between the support by circuit board 50 and the pressing member 43, an arrangement that provides no suggestion of a linear sloped intermediate area. The Examiner's observation that Kasukabe's element 44 is linear when pressing member 43 is not engaged with element 44 is not relevant since in that case Kasukabe's element 44 is not "offset to form a centrally located horizontal plane, a linear sloped intermediate area, and a peripheral plane parallel to the first horizontal plane" as required by Claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 is patentable over Kasukabe. Claims 2-12 depend from

Claim 1 and are therefore patentable over Kasukabe at least by virtue of their dependence from Claim 1.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of Claims 1-12. If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Skrehot', written in a cursive style.

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